

HOWARD KIMELDORF INTERVIEWS FOR *REDS OR RACKETS*?
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HENRY SCHMIDT OF ILWU LOCAL 10

INTERVIEWEES: HENRY SCHMIDT, FAY SCHMIDT

INTERVIEWERS: HOWARD KIMELDORF

SUBJECTS: LEE HOLMAN; HARRY BRIDGES; HOWARD SPERRY; ANGELO ROSSI; PHIL SANDINE; LOCAL 10; INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION; NATIONAL RECOVERY ADMINISTRATION; PACIFIC COAST MARITIME INDUSTRY BOARD; RANK AND FILE; INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION; COMMUNIST PARTY; SCREENING

LOCATION: SONOMA, CALIFORNIA

DATE: JANUARY 25, 1984

INTERVIEW LENGTH: 01:43:58

FILE NAME: SchmidtHenry_HKOHP_1984_Audio_acc5798-001.wav

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[00:00:00] **HOWARD KIMELDORF:** [audio quality poor] I'm here with Henry Schmidt in Sonoma, California January 25, 1984. Henry, why don't you tell me how you got started on the waterfront? So, what year you got started and the circumstances.

[00:00:17] **HENRY SCHMIDT:** Well it just so happened that I arrived in San Francisco [California] , I was just about 18 years old, I came from Minneapolis [Minnesota] . I came from working on a flour mill in Minneapolis, I looked for a flour mill in San Francisco and I found one and got a job there right away, it was wartime, World War I. And I worked in the flour mill, which was at the very bottom of Telegraph Hill.

And on Saturday afternoon the boss man would shut the bottom floor down and we would go to the top floor to do some work we could only do when the mill was shut down. We were replacing silk screens with what they

call the shakers. The mill—the fine flour comes out of it, a little wheat kernel. If you looked right, the mill was so high, I could see a dock and I could see a ship and it reminded me of the ship that brought me there in the first place. And I could see that the booms of the ship, I didn't know what they were, and I could see the men working under the hook, but I didn't exactly realize what they were doing. And later on I made a photograph—it's hanging over there on the wall and if you want to comprehend this better, you could take four or five steps and you could look at the picture and you could get a better idea.

[00:02:13] **HOWARD:** This wall here?

[00:02:13] **HENRY:** No, over there.

[BREAK IN RECORDING OF INTERVIEW]

[00:02:16] **HOWARD:** Okay we're back on tape.

[00:02:19] **HENRY:** Do you have any interest about how I got to that farm?

[00:02:22] **HOWARD:** Um, probably not so much. So when did you actually get on the waterfront then?

[00:02:30] **HENRY:** Well, it could've been '27 or '28. Are we taping this?

[00:02:45] **HOWARD:** Yeah. Is that when you began longshoring then?

[00:02:47] **HENRY:** That's what they called it. I started to work in a car gang where you just worked on the dock and you handled cars, opening in and out of railway cars. And I would talk to the other fellas who were doing the same work and I'd ask them about, "Why don't you work on ships?" Two, couple of them said something to the effect, "It's more dangerous work." In any event, that was during the years of the so-called shape up there was no union whatsoever. So in order to get a job you walked the waterfront, standing in front of the dock, and we were hoping for the boss man to come out and beckon you to come in. Or he might say, "Standing number so-and-so, who worked yesterday, you can all come in." And sometimes he would say, "But not you!" That's how they handled the situation.

But anyway, in time, and I don't know how much time had elapsed, I finally got a job at the Admiral Line Docks. The chief stevedore there, the boss man. I heard before he became a boss man he had a little office. He himself had been a winch driver, but I never myself saw him drive winchers. So, I guess that is of no—not any consequence. Anyhow, I became part of gang number 3 and become a steady man there. The gang bosses name was Sam Hendrickson.

[00:04:24] **HOWARD:** I know that name.

[00:04:39] **HENRY:** He was Norwegian, he's no longer alive.

[00:04:40] **HOWARD:** Yeah. I've heard the name though.

[00:04:41] **HENRY:** [Inaudible] _____ in my piece.

[00:04:44] **HOWARD:** Maybe that's why I saw it, okay.

[00:04:46] **HENRY:** Well, then I was—determined to work in the hold, I wanted to find out what was going on there, because I'd never done it before. I became an holdman. Once or twice I was pressed up on deck and drive

the winches until I gave that up. They ought to teach a younger person how to drive winches. You know they have training opportunities now, but. . . So we worked along for a number of years.

[00:05:23] **HOWARD:** Were you a member of the blue book union?

[00:05:24] **HENRY:** Yes, yes. [Inaudible] _____ Tillman was the chief of the stevedores. He said to me one day, he said, "Schmidt tomorrow, the business agent of the blue book is coming here and I want you to get used to him. He's going to collect dues. It's just like a regular union, but it's company control." I learned about what is company controlled, you know?

So, I worked there a long time, a couple of years—and one day—the thing I'm going to tell you now is in the book ["Secondary Leadership in the ILWU, 1933-1966"], I think it has a title in a book,—this man told the longshoremen work harder and faster because then it would be more profitable for the company that they're working for. And so one day a man came on board, and he's standing up there on the deck and he's looking down into the hold, possibly somebody taller than him hollered at him and said, "Who are you and what is your name?" And I think he said his name was Thompson. Well by evening we called him "Big Load Thompson" because all he was to tell us to work harder and if you put 38 cases of canned salmon on sling load, increase it to 42 or 44.

[00:06:56] **HOWARD:** What was the nature of the work like in those days?

[00:07:00] **HENRY:** Well, my goodness. I think by the time a man was approaching 50, if he did that work steadily, he wasn't much good anymore.

Anyhow, it just so happens that one day we were working in what they call the "after hatch." You know this terminology? The longshoreman—

[00:07:21] **HOWARD:** A little bit, yeah.

[00:07:22] **HENRY:** They don't call it the "ceiling," they call it the "overhead," you know? We were looking in the after hatch in the lower hold and the shaft alley was there. The shaft which guides the propeller and it's covered with steel. And the man who has to—an oiler, who has nothing to do with longshore but to go in there and oil the moving parts, but we don't see him. But somehow or another, the winch driver and I can't explain why he did it but he took his sling load and landed it on top of the shaft hatch, which was round, about like that. And the bottom of his sling load was flat. And the only way to avoid spilling the whole business is he would have to keep the winchers tight on the line. But somehow something happened, nothing broke, nothing got carried away, but the whole thing came down. Nobody got hurt, but the load of sack material, which had been on a flat sling load, didn't fall on anybody but it was the kind of thing that—I blew my top. And I said, "Fellas, this is it, we gotta get up the ladder and go on deck because this is getting too dangerous." So I became the leader of this little strike of one whole gang. And somehow or another, I probably thought the man working on the same ship in other hatches would find out what we were doing and also come off but they moved because they really never knew.

[00:09:11] **HOWARD:** Do you know about what year this was in?

[00:09:21] **HENRY:** No. It was—I can't remember. So anyhow, they had a system there that if you had gone home one evening, you had a job that's finished, you were told "Nothing for you tomorrow, but call the girl by telephone." And the girl would tell you, "Nothing for you tomorrow but the day after tomorrow you're supposed to report in to Pier so-and-so." Well, for about a week I called every night and every day and nothing.

Finally the woman on the telephone said “Yes, gang number three report on Julius Tillman's office and go to work.”

So the next morning I saw them and they were all there, including myself. And Sam Hendrickson came around and said, “We’re all going into work, Henry. But you can’t come in.” And I looked at him and I don’t know what I said. He didn’t say, “You’re fired,” but that was it. Anyhow, after he saw me in the back, I became known, which was very helpful. So I used to drop in there in the morning after this happened hoping that Tillman would see me and break his heart and rehire me. But he didn’t do that.

[00:10:54] **HOWARD:** Why did you say it was helpful that you were known?

[00:10:57] **HENRY:** Well it has to do the further events that took place later on.

[00:11:06] **HOWARD:** At that particular time it was a handicap.

[00:11:07] **HENRY:** Well, approaching the idea of getting into the union. The way you get to be known is, “That’s the guy that walked off the job one day,” you get, you make progress in the union elections. It’s simple. But I didn’t do it for that reason and I was so goddamn mad because this guy was riding our neck, “work harder because we need to make more money.”

[00:11:37] **HOWARD:** When did the idea of a union occur to you or others? Do you remember? Was it around that period?

[00:11:44] **HENRY:** Yes, yes and I think we were still paying dues into the blue book. But the other thing was a-coming and my memory is quite hazy on many of these things, but the only thing that I can remember really clearly is I was standing on the—not the in shape-up, but in the inside in the pier, where you first gather in the morning when you know that you were going to work. But I was standing in the hopes that Tillman would—that he might reconsider and put me work. But then I looked down the line and saw a longshoreman coming towards us, towards Tillman's office and me. He had a walk up, maybe a hundred yards to get to me and he said, "Henry, you looking for work?" And I said, "You’re goddamn right." And then he said, "Come along with me, I'm working with so-and-so's gang. And he's one man short and you're just here, so come along." And I went along. And I went up the gangplank and on the hatch, and this gang boss didn't realize it was me. He didn't know that Henry Schmidt was getting into his gang because he was looking the other way. And there came—I went to work right away. And I don't know how long I worked but all of a sudden there was a moment of silence when the winches were not running and he looked down and he said with a couple of well-known curse words, he said, "Jesus, I got Henry Schmidt in my gang." I don't know if he was happy about it or not but it seems to me that he pushed me out later on anyway.

[00:13:46] **HOWARD:** You were that well-known that a gang boss on another dock would recognize you?

[00:13:52] **HENRY:** It was not the other dock, it was the same dock—

[00:13:54] **HOWARD:** Oh it was.

[00:13:54] **HENRY:** —and a ship that everyone knew, it was the Admiral Line. Then there came an announcement by the Congress of the United States having to do with the National Relations Labor Board, and it was to the effect that it became public, and everybody began to read and everybody began to understand it—that the system of collective-bargaining between bosses and workers shall not be interfered with, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. Maybe you could quote it better than I can.

[00:14:34] **HOWARD:** “Employees have a right to have their own choosing.”

[00:14:37] **HENRY:** Yeah, that’s right. So everybody on the dock where I was still working began to talk about it and then all of a sudden, the new union came into being and we found out that they were signing us up in the new union—signing us up with just a 50 cent initiation fee, or 50 cent to get a book. And the next morning we would go to work—and this was happening on all docks. It was one of those things clearly everybody had read it, and many of them didn’t understand it. But they realized that the blue book union was finished and something new was creeping in would either continue to live or be exterminated again.

[00:15:27] **HOWARD:** Let me ask you a couple of questions about a little bit earlier period. There was the Marine Workers Industrial Union; it was part of the TUUL [Trade Union Unity League], the communist-led labor federation at the time. Do you remember them coming down and agitating?

[00:15:43] **HENRY:** Name the first thing?

[00:15:44] **HOWARD:** It was called the Marine Workers Industrial Union.

[00:15:48] **HENRY:** I remember that name but the other one I don’t know.

[00:15:51] **HOWARD:** Oh, yeah it was the grouping. It was called the Trade Union Unity League.

[00:15:57] **HENRY:** Those people were not working on the waterfront, as I recollect.

[00:16:02] **HOWARD:** Do you remember Sam Darcy?

[00:16:05] **HENRY:** Yeah, I saw his name in the paper.

[00:16:08] **HOWARD:** He said he used to go down and speak on the waterfront sometimes. And Nate Branch, I think was his name, used to go down there and speak on the Waterfront.

[00:16:16] **HENRY:** Nate what?

[00:16:17] **HOWARD:** I think, Branch. No?

[00:16:20] **HENRY:** First name was what?

[00:16:21] **HOWARD:** Darcy, and then Nate Branch.

[00:16:25] **HENRY:** He was around but I don't think he was a waterfront worker.

[00:16:28] **HOWARD:** Do you remember any activities in the Marine Workers Industrial Union? Do you remember them doing any soap box orations or agitations or anything like that?

[00:16:42] **HENRY:** It seems to me—that there was a meeting place near the City Hall and the word was that the Marine Workers Industrial Union that was their meeting place. Anyhow, I don't know how it happened, but we were told on the waterfront that the place was invaded by the police and wrecked. And as a result of this, some of us after working hours, or on our day off, we went to have a look at this place and it was a wreck. So that’s how those people were taken care of.

[00:17:35] **HOWARD:** But you don't remember anything about them agitating or handing out booklets?

[00:17:39] **HENRY:** I never heard, never heard a speech.

[00:17:44] **HOWARD:** Okay. So let's go back to the NRA [National Recovery Administration] period you were talking about when the legislation is passed. And you talked about the men getting optimistic or something, huh?

[00:17:57] **HENRY:** Well, they found the place. A man—I hope it comes to me—a man by the name of [?Holm?] , he was an old-timer and he knew the place where they used to board before they smashed it in 1919 or so. And he had an old man, according to the secretary, he said in effect, or “Let it be known that the new union was being re-organized but the old union is coming back. The ILA [International Longshore Association] .”

[BELL CHIME]

[00:18:41] **HOWARD:** So I went in there and the secretary there and a third guy who was a business agent who was taking our names, and he wanted my name and he wanted to know what the part of the work I was acquainted with and I got real postal. I said, “I'm also about to be a good winch driver,” which I'd never been. And he looked at me, he said, “Well, you're young, alright.” So then, there was much talk about the new union, would the new union would do anything and some of the fellas remembered that they had been in the ILA before the blue book was established. And I think it's proper to say that they were hoping and praying that the new union would come back, especially with this new piece of legislation which was passed by the Congress. And then I recall that there was a strike at one dock. Not at our dock, I think it was the Matson dock, and they were tied up. And somebody came out of the Washington D.C. to act as mediator, not an arbitrator. And there was a meeting and I became—I guess, the new union got into the habit of choosing people, or appointing them, to go to this meeting and tell this mediator what the beef was all about. Man, this is over 40 years ago. [laughs]

Close to 50 actually.

[00:20:47] **HENRY:** Yeah, 50 years. So, [pause] excuse me for a minute.

[00:21:02] **HOWARD:** Yeah, sure.

[00:21:07] **HENRY:** Which the employers accepted, the little union group also accepted it. That's my memory and they all went back to work, so that was...

[00:21:20] **HOWARD:** That was the book burning incident, right?

[00:21:21] **HENRY:** Yes.

[00:21:22] **HOWARD:** Was that when they had the book burning? Is that when they burned their blue books?

[00:21:25] **HENRY:** The book burning took place at the foot of Clay Street. I guess, yeah, I can still see them. They were burning their blue books at the foot of Clay Street where some building had been torn down and the crud was still there and the guys made a bonfire. So that was a good deal. But then we got acquainted with this fella, [Lee] Holman, he became known as the new president and then it became known that he had been a president for— years ago, when they were—years ago—before they were smashed.

[00:22:16] **HOWARD:** Did anyone try to oppose Holman?

[00:22:18] **HENRY:** Oh yeah, we opposed Holman considerably.

[00:22:22] **HOWARD:** On what grounds?

[00:22:23] **HENRY:** Well, the new union grew and the elected an executive committee. And it elected a strike committee just in case at 113 Stuart Street. I realize that I have difficulty remembering certain things but a fella by the name of Bridges got up, and he said that he had been a Wobbly down in San Pedro. He had come from Australia and he had said, “I learned something about the Wobblies but I don’t really know what’s going on.” And somebody in the audience said, “Well I used to be”—he used to be a member of IWW, he had given information, it goes, “It’s all news to me.”

Anyhow, we hadn’t been communicating with other ports. So the thing is going and the web was being spun, let’s put it that way. Then we found out that the ILA had had a secretary in one of the northern ports, all of the years that we had been smashed and he had been on salary. He came down to speak to our committee.

[00:23:52] **HOWARD:** Was that Paddy Morris [Tacoma longshore leader and ILA loyalist] ?

[00:23:54] **HENRY:** No, Paddy Morris came later. I can’t remember his name. And the fact that he had been paid was all news to me. But he made a speech to our so-called Executive Board Striking Committee and then the group was very much impressed with some of the things that Harry told us. He said, in effect, he said in the port of Australia where I worked as a harbor worker— [pause] I started listening [to the radio] . I’m going to turn it down a bit.

What was the last thing I said?

[00:24:45] **HOWARD:** Okay. We were talking about the Strike Committee and the guy from the northwest came down.

[00:24:50] **HENRY:** Yeah. And then Harry came along and introduced himself and said, “I’m an Australian, I used to work there as a longshoreman.” I think he said something about “we don’t call ‘em a longshoreman, we call ‘em something else,” but, he said, “These fellas are way behind us.” And then he said we oughta wake up and do something about it.” He said something about a strike that they had won and so forth. In any event, Holman was busy. I can recall very clearly that there was a meeting in the Labor Temple way up on Market [sic Capp Street] and 16th Street somewhere, and it was supposed to be initiation evening. It was a word that I wasn’t really well acquainted with.

I think I should tell you that I am parenthetically that—what’s the word—you see I’m not an educated person. I went to school in Germany and we moved back and forth between Holland [Netherlands] and Germany. I went to school in Germany and I went to school in Holland. And when I got out on the farm, I didn’t know one word of English. Not one word! And I’ve never been in school in the United States.

[00:26:27] **HOWARD:** You got a very good grasp of English.

[00:26:31] **HENRY:** And no experience in higher levels of education whatsoever. I know that I can talk American English without an accent but I can—I can imitate German accents and make my daughter laugh every time.

[00:26:52] **HOWARD:** Is that right?

[00:26:55] **HENRY:** Anyway, it was initiation night, everybody knew that, and Holman was the chairman and he had appointed a business agent who would propose certain motions and he would holler, “Your pleasure.” I didn’t know what the hell that means. Are you going to vote now? You know? And then Holman made a few

more passes and he started to tell him that he had been a longshoreman before any president and had to leave the industry because the union had smashed, which he chaired and he put his hand on his heart and he said, “I love the longshoremen, especially the old timers.” That didn’t go over worth a damn. [both chuckle]

Harry got up. He was not so well-known, but he made it that evening and he was smart. He got up he says, “What are you going to initiate us? That’s what we came here for. Never mind all this blarney about die for longshoremen because of old timers.” And finally he forced Holman to read from a book and they made us all take the pledge.

[00:28:17] **HOWARD:** Albion Hall was in existence at that point, wasn’t it?

[00:28:22] **HENRY:** Yeah, I knew it well. In the same hall where this little group was supposed to have meetings there was a Germanic singing society, which I became a member of that. So I knew about Albion Hall before these fellas came about their meetings. And sometimes after we went through singing all the way in German language, they used to terminate their meetings and we would terminate our singing meeting and we would—down on the main floor, practically it’s level with the street, there was a saloon and we would talk with these fellas and notice they were talking English. Anyhow, and then I had been a longshoreman and I went to these gatherings once in a while, I couldn’t make any sense of it.

[00:29:34] **HOWARD:** Why not?

[00:29:34] **HENRY:** I don’t know why not. Because I was learning a brand new thing and I guess I was trying to grasp it but I realized that it was an organization of men who were working for an employer and the employer was riding on their necks—

[END PART ONE/BEGIN PART TWO]

—somehow or other—I can’t remember all these things—word got around that it was supposed to be a communist leading in the Albion Hall. Anyhow, it dissipated away, I don’t know how.

[00:30:16] **HOWARD:** How many guys attended the Albion Hall meetings as a rule, do you remember?

[00:30:21] **HENRY:** Well, eight or nine.

[00:30:23] **HOWARD:** Oh, is that all? And. . .

[00:30:29] **HENRY:** There was one man there, I can’t remember his name, somebody found out—I think somebody said Matson Navigation Company [now, Matson, Inc.] where the longshoreman did their work. They also had created the soup kitchen where you could buy your midday meal instead of going up the street. And some other fella agitated that should be done away with, why should we make the company, which make the union buy food, just like a restaurant? Another fella, raised the dickens about that, he thought it was a good thing.

[00:31:13] **HOWARD:** Do you remember what you discussed at the Albion Hall meetings? What was talked about?

[00:31:18] **HENRY:** This kind of stuff.

[00:31:20] **HOWARD:** This sort of stuff?

[00:31:21] **HENRY:** Yeah, the meetings were great. As they say now a days, no big deal.

[00:31:29] **HOWARD:** Did you guys discuss strategy and tactics of working inside?

[00:31:35] **HENRY:** [Inaudible] _____ was a brand new name for me. Keep in mind I never had any schooling except in the two countries over in Europe. And if I may say something for your information, you can take it down if you want to, but I often say I never went to school on this side of the water, on this side of the globe. But I do remember when I first came to Winnipeg [Manitoba, Canada] , my father was told by some well-meaning people, “You ought to send that boy to school.” I went to school for exactly four or five days and then I went to the farm. It was a female teacher, which was something of a new thing to me because in Germany they were all male teachers; in Holland there were quite a few female teachers in school. . .Where in the devil was I?

[00:32:37] **HOWARD:** Okay, you were talking about what was discussed in Albion Hall and I asked about strategy.

[00:32:42] **HENRY:** Oh, yeah. Anyhow, the teacher wanted to help me and she gave me, what I called block letters. Letters of the alphabet made of wood, cut with a little knife and she told me to, she put them on a—what she was trying to say, which I didn’t understand, that she wanted me to place them in the proper order. So I grabbed them and I said A, B, C, and she—I don’t know what she said, but that was all the schooling in the English language.

[00:33:17] **HOWARD:** You spoke and understood English when you were on the Waterfront in the early years, right?

[00:33:21] **HENRY:** Of course, it all happened on this bloody farm in Canada. Excuse the word bloody, but they used up in Canada all the time.

[00:33:34] **HOWARD:** The reason I’m asking about the Albion Hall is, I know the government was asking too for a bunch of different reasons to get Harry in trouble and stuff like that, I want to find out because I want to get its impact in San Francisco. The reason I’m asking is because I think the fact that there was an Albion Hall here, there was a group of organized progressives, allowed that group to have a greater influence in Local 10, say, than any other local on the West Coast because you didn’t have any locals like that anywhere else on the West Coast. And so what I’m asking is, how big of an impact was Albion Hall on the early days of that union, on the ILA? How much influence did you guys have?

[00:34:20] **HENRY:** It’s a good question. Do you want me to give it in kilometers or miles? [laughs]

[00:34:24] **HOWARD:** I know. Well, I mean, did you have some influence on how the meetings were carried on in the ILA level? Did you influence the way people thought inside the union?

[00:34:34] **HENRY:** The ILA membership meetings, which were brand new for me, and they were brand new for many other fellow workers, but they were not brand new for the old-timers. The then old-timers who had been smashed. And they loved it [the union.] . Political action was—well, I should think—this union is now asking the readers and the members, the official organizers of the union, to build up the political action fund! There was nothing like that in those days.

[00:35:19] **HOWARD:** Okay, do you remember the waterfront worker? Remember that, that came out? I know you were involved in distributing it and a few other things.

[00:35:26] **HENRY:** Yeah. I pedaled that for a while.

[00:35:29] **HOWARD:** Yeah. And, what kind of influence did it have on the men?

[00:35:33] **HENRY:** I don't know. I didn't—I didn't realize it that it was a communist paper. Anyhow, I established this thought in my mind: when a large employer is struck by a union which has gathered some strength and thinks that it can do some good for its members, then it's up to the employers to resist. And this is supposed to be the formula. And the formula is: make sure that you charge certain leaders of this union that they are communist that will be very helpful for you. And that's exactly what happened. And the formula has a name but I can't remember it, but it makes it crystal clear that the person who is a large employer, educated to the extent that if the union has a leader, which of course it has, charge those guys of being communist, and you'll have the battle won. And that's exactly what they did. They didn't have to prove anything all they have to do is name-calling.

[00:37:03] **HOWARD:** Okay, but it seemed like a lot of the longshoreman didn't care that much if they were red-baited. They accused Harry of being communist for 50 years. Some guys, obviously, are exceptions.

[00:37:15] **HENRY:** I know all about that thing. We had a feud. They made it crystal clear to me that you have a read all about our trial. We also received a Supreme Court decision.

[00:37:34] **HOWARD:** Let me see. I'm trying to figure out where the sort of radical direction comes from, or sort of its militancy. Would you say the ILA '34, '35, '36 was sort of a radical union? Would you characterize it that way?

[00:37:55] **HENRY:** What do you mean by radical by men like Big Thompson—"Big Load" Thompson.

[00:37:59] **HOWARD:** Why don't you explain that a little bit.

[00:38:01] **HENRY:** Well I did a little while ago. He barked on the hatch, "Put more cases on that load. I want you to work harder and hit the ball."

[00:38:21] **HOWARD:** So you think it was the employers that made the union as radical as it was?

[00:38:25] **HENRY:** Well certainly.

[00:38:28] **HOWARD:** Well you got employers in New York, they were just as much against the union there. And yet, the unions hardly radical in New York.

[00:38:39] **HENRY:** Yup.

[00:38:41] **HOWARD:** I mean I think the employers are a large part of the story. I also think that the progressives who interpret what the employers do for the rank-and-file are very important also, you know? So what I'm trying to figure out—

[00:38:54] **HENRY:** You mean, are you saying that some employers are giving us the soft soap and convince us that they're doing well by us?

[00:39:03] **HOWARD:** Well, they always try to do that. The question of whether or not the workers believe them or not is the real issue.

[00:39:09] **HENRY:** Later on I became, I don't know if this is going to go in your tape or not but, can I tell you something about the negotiations for a pension?

[00:39:17] **HOWARD:** Yeah, sure.

[00:39:20] **HENRY:** Well, we had—I became a member of the negotiating committee. And there was a man by the name of, was an employer negotiator. [pause] I can't think of the name who—you know he was the four letter word.

FAY [HENRY'S WIFE] : I know who you're talking about but I can't remember—

[00:40:03] **HOWARD:** [inaudible] ____ St. Sure was the big one but it's not...

[00:40:06] **HENRY:** No, no. I'm going to look at the picture.

[BREAK IN THE RECORDING OF THE INTERVIEW]

I was a member of the negotiating committee, I wasn't—by no means the chief spokesman. That was Harry, and he had said to [?Dwight Steel?] , who had been in the negotiating business, but he thought he was real tough. Harry got through saying that he thought—and I guess he was hoping that the rest was going to agree with him—that we had a package on the table that would be accepted by the rank-in-file if we went—by us going out and making speeches by us holding gas on it. Do I make myself clear?

[00:40:56] **HOWARD:** Yeah.

[00:40:57] **HENRY:** Yeah, he said “Well, Dwight Steel. There's just one more thing.” Now bear in mind, up until this point, this thing had been going on first names, Harry, Hank the Crank, Joe Blow, and so on. Dwight Steel said, “Well what is that?” And he tightened up because he knew what was coming. And he said, “Dwight, there's just one more thing.” “Well, what is that?” he said—Dwight. “It's pensions. We have to have a pension.” And Dwight said, “Well Mr. Bridges, I told you politely, I told you in-politely, I told you sternly, and now I can only say one other word: go fuck yourself with your pension.” And Harry said, “Well, I guess you mean it but we'll see you another day.”

[00:42:01] **HOWARD:** That was about 1948, or '49?

[00:42:05] **HENRY:** About that time. He made it to Hawai'i and lost there too. He had an arbitrator in Hawai'i, who came from the University of—the State of Wisconsin, and he made a recommendation that was acceptable to us but Dwight Steel told him that he couldn't take it.

[00:42:27] **HOWARD:** What were your views on ship owners? What do you think ship owners were after in the late '20s? What were your views of them?

[00:42:42] **HENRY:** I think a young man like that, without proper education, which was missing in my case, he doesn't think along those lines. He works hard, he goes home, he eats his meals, and if he's had a tough day he'll sleep better and does his thinking maybe lying in bed, trying to raise a family. I think that—the thought goes through my head, maybe it's a fresh thought that he probably thinks the work is too hard, he has difficulty paying the rent, he look forward to the thing being changed, but you don't make much progress because every time you pick up the newspaper, which comes daily, there's something is going on, on the waterfront, which the newspaper suspect has something to do with communism. I don't know, it's difficult to answer that. Maybe I've got the answer in some of those books over there.

[00:44:10] **HOWARD:** Well, partly there, yeah. What I'm trying to figure out is, like when they drop the load, you've told me this story about the guy—the winch driver—who dropped the load on the—

[00:44:21] **HENRY:** Yeah, by accident.

[00:44:22] **HOWARD:** —propeller cover. Now, what did you think, right at that moment?

[00:44:26] **HENRY:** I can't remember—I know I got very, very angry and I said to myself, "This is it! I'm going to go up the ladder and raise hell."

[00:44:36] **HOWARD:** Who were you angry at?

[00:44:38] **HENRY:** The winch driver. The load was coming out and the working conditions. Yes, I can remember the winch driver and this was on another job, he comes down and all of a sudden you realize that the load is right over you! Because he apparently is being told by the boss, maybe the walking boss, that he should do better. And he hangs that thing over and if it ever comes down on you you're finished, you know? And my partner, he was standing on one side and I said something to him, which he didn't like, I said to him words to the effect that "the winch driver is working harder," and I don't know whether he does this on purpose, but he wants us to get busy and wants us to land the load so we can pack stuff in. With that kind of hard work—

[00:45:47] **HOWARD:** Did you resent the ship owners? Or did you resent mostly the winch drivers?

[00:45:53] **HENRY:** No, I admired the winch drivers because they were so adept with driving those winches. They played with those things, you know? And they worked this way, you've seen.

[00:46:04] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I've heard about it.

[00:46:05] **HENRY:** And sometimes they—the talk was around on European ships, they don't—they put two winches out for a gang and it takes two men. But these fellows—are so synchronized that they can handle both of them. One hand goes this way it flies back and forth. Well, anyhow, we got our pensions.

[00:46:40] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I know that. It was one of the first unions to get that, it was the United Mine Workers and then ILWU. In that order.

[00:46:48] **HENRY:** It could be.

[00:46:51] **HOWARD:** Alright, let's go back to the 1930s a little bit here. Covered the Albion Hall, how about the strike itself in 1934 what can you tell me about that?

[00:47:02] **HENRY:** Well my thinking machinery on, I can tell you plenty.

Anyhow, we had—well one thing that stands out in my mind is we had a strike meeting and we were on strike and we had a couple of visitors. I think they were sent over by the University of California. And one of these men was—what's the word they use, the people who do the teaching out in the university?

[00:47:34] **HOWARD:** Professors?

[00:47:35] **HENRY:** Yeah. Well, sometimes I read in the papers, sometimes they make reference to it people that are taught and then the other group who are—yeah, they are professors, but as a group they have some other name—

[00:47:52] **HOWARD:** Oh, faculty?

[00:47:53] **HENRY:** Yeah, faculty.

[00:47:53] **HOWARD:** Oh, okay.

[00:47:55] **HENRY:** You see—anyhow—

[00:47:59] **HOWARD:** Let me just add parenthetically, you don't have to apologize, you're very sharp. For a man with no formal education in this country, I think you've got it very together.

[00:48:10] **HENRY:** Thank you. Two gentlemen came and the chairman introduced them, I forget who the chairman, I was on the podium, I wasn't the chairman. Holman, but we had gotten rid of him. And one of these fellas had been an ambassador to another country and the other who came along with him was also a very well-educated American. He had also—he hadn't been an ambassador but was apparently a professor in a university. And these two characters, they gave us a lecture, a very friendly, very sternly, to the effect that they had heard we were going to go on strike, and to make it very short, they advocated that perhaps we should reconsider and not go because they said, "We think, that some of you might get hurt, it's possible that somebody might even be killed." And I don't know what my thinking was but that really happened, our opposition really killed us, right there on the foot of Market Street.

[00:49:46] **HOWARD:** You're talking about the Bloody Thursday incident?

[00:49:47] **HENRY:** Yes. Later on it occurred to me, "well they told us, well, here it is!" All of a sudden, a brother, I don't know what his name was, well we buried him. In a manner of speaking, it was a good thing he was a war vet because his coffin was wrapped in stars and stripes.

[00:50:12] **HOWARD:** Sperry, Howard Sperry was his name?

[00:50:14] **HENRY:** You know more about it than I do. [laughs]

[00:50:16] **HOWARD:** I've been reading it enough. You were there though. I know that you were leading one of the raids at Rincon Hill? Was that what it was?

[00:50:25] **HENRY:** That's another thing. It was so crazy.

[00:50:26] **HOWARD:** Why do you say that?

[00:50:28] **HENRY:** Well, if I hadn't been angry and fighting for the cause as they say, I wouldn't have led the gang up to Rincon Hill, because we came to a place where I advocated "we've got to build a—we have to build the bastions—"

[00:50:51] **HOWARD:** Barricade?

[00:50:51] **HENRY:** Barricades! There was nothing laying around that we could use to build barricades but I was just so excited. And I had parked my car in a place. . . . Anyhow.

[00:51:09] **HOWARD:** This is a dumb question but I'm going to ask it anyway, was there a lot of violence in the 1934 strike? How many men were touched by the violence, by the police, I'm thinking? Or the goons or whatever?

[00:51:23] **HENRY:** Well on that particular spot Howard Sperry was the only man that was killed. But there were other deaths in other parts.

[00:51:30] **HOWARD:** How about routine beatings or being tear-gassed or?

[00:51:33] **HENRY:** Oh, yes, yes. I can explain it—personal experience. One day word went around the waterfront that we, the strikers, should go down to a ship, which was down there and the plank was out, and we could get aboard that ship and raise hell. Well there was a fella on the waterfront, his name was Henry Schrimpf, and as I recall it, he was the first man to hit the deck, up at the gangplank and the recipient, he was received by a strike breaker and he got hit in the head by a cargo hook. Anyhow, later it became clear to me that this was a set up!

I guess you know what that was. You come along and do your stuff and you will get hurt! And I was running and I saw some policemen whacking some of us on the back and chasing us away and one of them chose me to whack. And he kept hitting me on the shoulder but I didn't feel anything. I said to myself, "This guy doesn't really mean that, he's being considerate." And I always tell this story, always try to imitate his accent, he was an Irish man, he kept on saying, "Get out now, get home!" He says, "You're getting a fair treatment here this afternoon!" So I knew damn well that he wasn't hitting me hard. If you use that stick you can brain a man.

[00:53:16] **HOWARD:** Yeah. How many guys were victims of violence of one form or another, either getting tear-gassed or beaten, or chased or...?

[00:53:30] **HENRY:** I don't know if we counted them. If you're interested I can tell a meeting that was held in Mayor [Angelo] Rossi's office, have you read that?

[00:53:44] **HOWARD:** I don't think so.

[00:53:47] **HENRY:** Because we're running all over the place. Well, Holman was—it was during a strike, and Holman came to the surface and he tried to organize people who was following him, he had some headquarters that was up a ways on the waterfront, and he kept on saying that he had an advertisement placed in newspapers "longshoremen who were not working at the time should come to San Francisco, there would be a working opportunity." We established a union that he had—where he had been a president before. Well it just so happens—I was in an office, a dispatching hall, at the foot of Clay Street. I'm sure that I'm right in my assumption I was in there because I had been elected president of Local 10. That's right, that was it.

And all of a sudden the street was full of longshoremen and what they had done without my knowing about it, is they had heard that Holman's gang was filling up the—Holman's gang was in the street, making trouble for us, so they left the jobs, they came to rescue us. And then there were couple of courageous police, there was a police station right around the corner, and a couple of those guys they had fought their way to my office. I saw them. I went outside and I said, "Get these guys the hell out of here! They're phonies!" Yeah, Holman's men were in the street. And they got really rough with me, and they said, "How the hell can we handle this crowd?" They couldn't.

Well then, they got helped. So they gathered these Holman's men up and instead of chasing them across Market Street and then up Market Street, we went back to their headquarters. They shoved them into a small police station, which didn't have much room. And they locked 'em up. I don't know how it happened but I called up a man who was on the joint labors committee and his name was Frank Gregory. I had been chosen to serve on the joint labors relations committee, representing the union. And I said, I don't know what I said, I said, "Frank, or Mr. Gregory, would you please come down we have a situation, there are some men here who are now locked up and they claim they are longshoremen and they want to go to work but the police locked them up." "Well, what do you want me to do?" I said, "Well you can come here and tell them that we, the ILWU have a contract and these guys can't come here and force us to break a contract." I think it was still the ILA then? So he came along and then, it just so happened that I think Holman was in Moscow [Russia] at the time, I don't know, but anyhow, Frank Gregory said, "Mr. Schmidt is correct, he's the President of the union, which is working on the

waterfront, and they have a contract and there's nothing that you can do that you can convince us, the employers, that you should be working on the waterfront so perhaps you should take your men and go home." Have you heard this before?

[00:57:41] **HOWARD:** I think it might be in [Charles] Larrowe's book. I can remember reading it somewhere.

[00:57:50] **HENRY:** Well, let me take you to Mayor Rossi's office. So, Holman went to Mayor Rossi, and he pled the right to work. Something to do with pleading?

[00:58:12] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I never get that right either, so you're asking the wrong guy.

[00:58:16] **HENRY:** Yeah, what's the matter with your education? [teasing]

[00:58:19] **HOWARD:** I've only been in school for 30 years I can't figure things like that out. [laugh]

[00:58:24] **HENRY:** He went to the mayor and he asked the mayor to set up a meeting so he, the mayor, could help him. I don't know what the hell he told him but he invited me, and some other guys,—I think, I came by myself. Maybe I took my secretary along.

So Rossi said to Holman, words to the effect, "Holman, you're asking to meet with me and what is it that you think I can do?" He said, "Mr. Schmidt, the President of the union is here, what is it that you want me to do?" And Holman was looking right at me and his eyes starting to flash, and he got angry, he said, "You should know Mr. Rossi that this man is a communist, you just get going here, and ask him if he isn't a communist and then"—and then I don't know what, I don't know what else the hell he said. He was raving. Rossi's looking grave for a while, finally he made a comment and made a [inaudible] _____, looked at Rossi—

[END PART TWO/BEGIN PART THREE]

And the Mayor said to me, Mr. Schmidt, "What do you think that Holmes, Mr. Holman should do?" And I said, "Mr. Holman should pull his tents and steal away like the Arabs in the night." [Howard laughs]

Believe it or not, I'm boasting a little bit now. I guess I got it in the press, and somebody come to me and pull me up and said, Did you really say that? And I don't that I did—I must have read that somewhere.

[01:00:18] **HOWARD:** That's funny, that's a cute story.

[01:00:21] **HENRY:** So, Holman disappeared and several years later on he laid low some place.

[01:00:26] **HOWARD:** That was in the '36 strike, wasn't it?

[01:00:30] **HENRY:** Yeah. Once he signed the—there was a caucus coming up, you know, maybe it was already in session, it was in San Francisco, [blows nose] and he didn't get elected. And he knew all the credentials that you take to a convention, have to be signed by the Secretary President of the local, so he signed one of those things himself and came to the convention. The fact that he threw them out. How—what's the word? When you do it, and do it, and do it again when you're advised not to? There's a word for it.

[01:01:15] **HOWARD:** Stubborn? Intransigent?

[01:01:21] **FAY:** Persevere!

[01:01:22] **HENRY:** She hears everything!

[01:01:24] **HOWARD:** She does. [laugh]

[BREAK IN RECORDING OF INTERVIEW]

Okay, let's go, sorry.

[01:01:31] **HENRY:** Where were we?

[01:01:34] **HOWARD:** About the work stoppages? Yeah, the scrap iron you were telling me about?

[01:01:38] **HENRY:** Yeah, the employers had notified the International office that if we don't tell these Chinese people to play off with the scrap iron deal then they're going to cancel our contract and put us out—lock us out. And the general went up in the international office and said, "Well, Henry, they're your boys. You better go down. And tell them." So I made a speech to the Chinese pickets and well they terminated the proposition.

Later on I talked to myself silently, "You guys could've come down and made the speech yourself." Anyhow.

[01:02:21] **FAY:** There was no confrontation at all.

[01:02:26] **HENRY:** No. Oh they came around and they thanked us. That made me feel a little better.

[01:02:30] **HOWARD:** I remember Henry was quoted in the Chronicle at the time, he said, "You can't expect self-respecting longshoremen to step all over the kids!" Right? That's great. [laughing] Little kids that paraded in the front of the barricade.

[01:02:45] **FAY:** Oh I see.

[01:02:47] **HOWARD:** What do you think the rank-and-file was thinking about the scrap iron boycotts? Do you think that it was big issue to them, or were they just sort of going along? Because you guys were getting in the program or what?

[01:03:01] **HENRY:** I don't remember having any conversation where any longshoremen after it was all over. I probably did, but I can't remember the conversations. I can't answer your question. I'm sorry.

[01:03:13] **HOWARD:** How about moving forward in time to the war period, were you in San Francisco during the war?

[01:03:21] **HENRY:** World War II?

[01:03:22] **HOWARD:** Yeah.

[01:03:22] **HENRY:** Oh sure.

[01:03:24] **HOWARD:** You were an officer or—? Did you work on the docks?

[01:03:27] **HENRY:** No I think I was—well we had a proposition in the Local 10 constitution, which. . .
[pause] Have you ever read it?

[01:03:38] **HOWARD:** Limits the officers to two terms?

[01:03:40] **HENRY:** Two terms.

[01:03:40] **HOWARD:** For two years?

[01:03:42] **HENRY:** And then you have to go out and shake hands with the cargo, the next time you try you might get elected to—again. Elected to the same thing. That was never done elsewhere. Anyhow, I can tell you another—

[01:03:59] **FAY:** Weren't you on the war-relations board? Or something in the war? Something like that?

[01:04:04] **HENRY:** Oh yes, I know.

[01:04:06] **FAY:** Something or another.

[01:04:07] **HENRY:** The—

[01:04:08] **HOWARD:** Pacific Coast Maritime Industry Board?

[01:04:10] **HENRY:** Yeah, I was a member of that.

[01:04:11] **HOWARD:** You? And Cole Jackman?

[01:04:12] **HENRY:** Cole Jackman.

[01:04:13] **HOWARD:** Yeah, he was an impressive guy. I mean you both were, but Cole, I'd read the transcripts and he would tear up the attorneys or the employers, he was so sharp.

[01:04:24] **HENRY:** Well, he was the chairman and it never came through to me, and I read all the papers—prior to the strike, he was the head man in the employer's union.

[01:04:40] **HOWARD:** Yeah, the Industrial Association.

[01:04:41] **HENRY:** Oh, the Industrial—yeah. Yeah the Industrial Association.

Yeah, he died too. I have Cole Jackman hanging in the—I'll show you the picture. I have a couple of photographs from that day, they're all in that [inaudible] _____. He's dead, he's dead, he's dead. And I'm still here.

[01:04:59] **HOWARD:** And you're doing good. Did you like serving on the Maritime Industry Board during the war?

[01:05:07] **HENRY:** Well, in the beginning I didn't like it because I thought, 'When is this going to stop? When are they going to leave me alone and either work on the Waterfront or elect me to another office?' Here this thought now is not worth a dime. But I thought of the fact that the international—what's the name of the thing?

[01:05:29] **HOWARD:** It's called the Pacific Coast Maritime Industry Board.

[01:05:32] **HENRY:** That was created by an admiral whose name is [?Land?] . Have you ever heard of an admiral whose name is Land? What a screwball situation, huh? Anyhow this puts me to—one day, there was strike at a—I was retired—there was strike at a college—University of San Francisco, does that make sense? There was a gentlemen by the name of [S.I.] Hayakawa, was the president.

[01:05:58] **HOWARD:** Oh, San Francisco State?

[01:06:00] **HENRY:** He became a Senator. Japanese gentlemen. And I went out there where the pickets were turning out and all of a sudden, a man hollers at me, and I go over to him and I said, "Well, what do you want? Who are you?" And he says, "I'm so-and-so, you remember the meeting in Rossi's office?" I said, "Yes." He said, "That was a good crack you let off."

[01:06:27] **HOWARD:** Who was it?

[01:06:28] **HENRY:** I forget, it was a newspaper reporter who was covering the strike.

[01:06:34] **FAY:** Last name was [?Benet?] I think.

[01:06:36] **HENRY:** Yeah? Well, I don't remember.

[01:06:38] **FAY:** But I can't remember his first name.

[01:06:38] **HENRY:** Do you remember that? He said, "Yeah, that was a good crack you let off."

[01:06:42] **FAY:** That was when you said that a whole bunch were going to steal away in the night? Like the Arabs?

[01:06:53] **HOWARD:** What about the working conditions during the war? Did they change at all during the war? On the docks?

[01:07:03] **HENRY:** Well, bear in mind I was in office most of the time and I heard it said, you know, when everybody was working, I heard it said by some fellows, somebody heard somebody say this and passed it on to me and this guy said, "He hoped that war would keep up for a little bit longer because after it's over, the work wouldn't be so plentiful," he said. Well, that's the way it works with wars.

[01:07:37] **HOWARD:** Yeah, unfortunately.

[01:07:40] **HENRY:** Unfortunately, they kill each other and then [inaudible] _____ killing machines are made, and the work is available all over the place.

[01:07:51] **FAY:** Wasn't there a speed-up tendency in those days? For the war effort?

[01:07:58] **HENRY:** Oh yes, yes. Somebody would holler over the hatch [inaudible] _____, "The boys need the stuff, fellows!"

[01:08:09] **HOWARD:** Now, that's interesting because when I talked to the longshoremen themselves about that they never remember any speed-up. They all tell me the hours were longer, but the pace of the work was actually slower. And the reason it's interesting because Bridges' statements in the public were that "you got to speed up, you got to push, push, push." And people after the war, attacked him on those grounds. The so-called Blue Slate and those guys in Local 10. Said that they've given up on conditions and things like that. And yet I can't find anyone that remembers the work getting speeded up.

[01:08:47] **FAY:** I don't think they ever gave up conditions, I don't think they ever gave up conditions, but I think the men themselves tried to put forth a little more effort, but they didn't over—they didn't hurt themselves like a real speed-up would do. You see?

[01:09:05] **HOWARD:** Okay, so they did it on their own initiative you're thinking, rather—?

[01:09:09] **FAY:** I think so, I think it was that sort of thing, more than anything else.

[01:09:11] **HOWARD:** It could be.

[01:09:14] **FAY:** Over anything else.

[01:09:16] **HOWARD:** Do you remember any disputes over sling load limits? I know you guys debated on cement sling loads all the time.

[01:09:24] **HENRY:** Yeah, I think eventually we negotiated a deal that so much on the sling board, and the material would [inaudible] _____ when it was packaged in one way or another, you know. Twenty-two to twenty-three sacks of meal. I can't think of it all, but there was a limit to it.

[01:09:50] **HOWARD:** Do you remember the men ever objecting your role on the Maritime Board? Ever critical of the union's position?

[01:09:58] **HENRY:** Yeah, yeah. They thought it was just another proposition to speed us up. And of course the answer was, "Well, there's a war going on." I hated the damn job. Politically it was very bad. You couldn't get reelected you know? If you were anxious to get reelected.

Anyhow, there came a day when [pause] I retired. And every time where I had a job where I had a desk behind me, and a secretary, I was elected. There came a time through Harry's efforts I was appointed as Pension Director. And I had that title until I was retired. And Pension Director can make more progress in a certain way if he makes a great, big effort to make a guy eligible for the pension, even though he knows that he isn't eligible. And this has happened.

There was a dispatcher whose name I don't recall and he's dead anyhow, he listened to a man who said had been negotiating with me for a pension, and I have found him ineligible. And of course, whenever I found a man ineligible that was not the last word. They went to a union representative and an employer to explain why he was not eligible. But he wouldn't pay no attention that. And then he started talking to the dispatcher, and the dispatcher told him, "Why don't you go up to Schmidt and hand him a hundred dollar bill and he'll take care of you." And that's what he did. He put the hundred dollar in an envelope and then he ran out of the office, and I called our lawyer right away. Do you know the name of our—he's still alive.

[01:12:20] **HOWARD:** There's a [Richard] Gladstein.

[01:12:21] **HENRY:** Oh, he's dead.

[01:12:21] **HOWARD:** He is? Okay.

[01:12:22] **HENRY:** Honey, you know that lawyer that we had on—what do you call it?

[01:12:28] **FAY:** Anderson?

[01:12:29] **HOWARD:** On the pension?

[01:12:30] **HENRY:** No, no.

[01:12:31] **FAY:** Was it Anderson?

[01:12:31] **HENRY:** No, no they're not, they're all—

[01:12:38] **FAY:** Is it someone who's still living?

[01:12:38] **HENRY:** Yes.

[01:12:38] **FAY:** Oh.

[01:12:38] **HENRY:** I talked to him on the telephone not long ago.

[01:12:39] **FAY:** Oh, Leonard?

[01:12:40] **HENRY:** Yeah, Leonard. I called him up, I said, "So-and-so's the case." And he said, [pause] he said, I think he said, "Make a Xerox of the bill, put it in an envelope and send it to the man's house. Address it to Mr. and Mrs. so-and-so to make sure his missus will also get it. And then wait and see." The man was an Italian. Language was a problem. But he came into the office and—with the hundred dollar which I had sent back, he said, "Well, here. I'm coming back to give it to you." And I said, "Well, what happened?" "Well," he said, [pause] So Jimmy what's-his-name who—he tied a proof of this guy that I would be a crook, and fix him up for a hundred dollars.

[01:13:49] **HOWARD:** You've got a real reputation in the union for your integrity, you know that? Surprising he'd try something like that?

[01:13:55] **HENRY:** You're giving me a compliment now?

[01:13:57] **HOWARD:** Yes, I am. An honest statement of opinion. I haven't found—you know, everyone gossips about everyone else, especially the old-timers, I never heard anyone question your integrity or your honesty.

[01:14:07] **HENRY:** Well you had all kinds of screw-ball things happen. Are you acquainted with the M and M plan?

[01:14:15] **HOWARD:** Yeah.

[01:14:16] **HENRY:** Well a man came to me one day in the basement office, to see the Pension Director, and he said, "I understand that I'm eligible for the pension and the additional money that comes out of the M&M plan." And I said, "Well, I'll take a look." I checked up on him and I said, "I have just been advised that you don't have to take the eligibility money out of the M and M plan because it will be increased." He said, "Yeah?" And I said, "It's going up from up approximately 8,000 to something over 13 [,] ." And I said to him, "That's what I'm going to do, I'm going to wait for the big money." "Yeah," he said, "I think so. Well," he said, "I'll see you another day." And in about three minutes he was back, he says, "I just went out the door and I ran into Harry, and I talked the situation over with him. And he told me that I should wait." But he said, "I've changed my mind, I'm going to take it right now."

[01:15:29] **HOWARD:** Crazy logic.

[01:15:31] **HENRY:** And the other fellow who said his wife had raised all kind of hell with him with this hundred dollar bill, he was an Italian, and he said, "Now, I'm going to go to Italy." [pause] He had some kind of ailment, he was going to go—he was going to go to Italy see a doctor in the hospital. He said, "I'm going to Italy in the hospital." And I said, "What for?" "Because he's going to check me up." [laugh] All kinds of accents you learn.

[01:16:12] **HOWARD:** Oh yeah, I bet. I'm sure.

[01:16:14] **HENRY:** Now you should see every evening, advertisers, "Come Down Under, come to Australia."

[01:16:21] **HOWARD:** Oh, I've seen that one, with the Australian accent?

[01:16:23] **HENRY:** Yeah, you know.

[01:16:24] **HOWARD:** It's like Bridges.

[01:16:25] **HENRY:** Everybody calls them, "mate?" "Mate?" You know?

[01:16:30] **HOWARD:** How come Bridges still has his accent after all these years? Do you think it's intentional?

[01:16:35] **HENRY:** He still says, "bean" instead of "been."

[01:16:37] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I know, still as thick as it ever was, I guess.

Let me just a couple more questions about the war before we leave that period. You know several thousand new workers came onto the Waterfront in San Francisco during World War II. Many of them were Black, and many of them were whites. And how did they get along? In your assessment?

[01:17:04] **HENRY:** So as far as I'm concerned, I wasn't among the ranks, you know I was in the office, they got along very, very well. Did you hear something different?

[01:17:14] **HOWARD:** Well, not so much in San Francisco, but certainly in other ports there were a lot of problems.

[01:17:19] **HENRY:** Yeah, I haven't been told by people in other ports. San Francisco is known as the Black local.

[01:17:25] **HOWARD:** Yeah, why do you think that was?

[01:17:28] **HENRY:** Because there were so many Black people around here.

[01:17:31] **HOWARD:** In the city itself, you mean? Or. . .?

[01:17:32] **HENRY:** Yeah.

[01:17:35] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I suppose. There certainly is a sizable Black population in San Pedro, too—well not so much in San Pedro but Los Angeles, I guess, at the time. But they weren't so well-received there. Do you think that Bridges influenced—and other people—impacted on the way they received Black people in Local 1-?

[01:17:52] **HENRY:** Yeah, Harry, especially in Hawaii. He always spoke frankly, "You cannot discriminate against on account of his race. Creed or color. All must be equal in the ILWU." And this became—really in Hawai'i, I got my [pause] share of that too. Most of the longshoremen in Hawai'i are Filipinos. So being outnumbering all the others, have no difficulty being elected President Secretary. And they're always fighting with each other. We had to go down there and point out to them employers, your enemy, he has to have your help in order to do his business. But if you're going to fight with each other, you got to cut it out because you're just helping the employer by that. Filipino, you know, "he no like haole because he's white, you see. He no like,

hapa haole because that's half and half.” That's how they talk. We had a little--didn't Ah Quon [McElrath] leave them and go back East and get a job?

[01:19:15] **FAY:** Well, I think I did read something like that but I think she's an older woman and retired.

[01:19:21] **HENRY:** Anyhow, we had a social worker in Hawai'i, and she was 100 percent Chinese, but she spoke English as if she was brought up in the mainland. And I sought her advice one day, I said, "I listen to these fellows talk this English language, and you know how they butcher it up? They say this, that, and the other. When you first come here, you have difficulty understanding," and I said, "If you don't mind me saying so, I have a tendency to talk as they do, do you think it would be bad if they take offense, if I seem to imitate them?" And she said, "Oh, they will love you." And I went to town and I said, "wassa malla you?" Instead of saying, "What's the matter with you?" They said, "wassa malla you?"

[01:20:19] **HOWARD:** Sounds like Italian or something.

[01:20:20] **HENRY:** What's that?

[01:20:21] **HOWARD:** Sounds almost Italian or something, doesn't it?

How about after World War II? In Local 10, sort of a political split develops between the so-called Blue Slate and the Progressive Slate? Do you remember that period? You were running on the Progressive Slate a lot?

[01:20:46] **HENRY:** Did I get elected?

[01:20:46] **HOWARD:** Yeah, sometimes.

[01:20:49] **HENRY:** You mean the presidency, you mean?

[01:20:51] **HOWARD:** I don't remember what office, I think you were sometimes running for presidency, sometimes for vice-presidency?

[01:20:55] **HENRY:** Trouble is that the presidency [paused] I moved up. I got elected to the Joint Labor Relations Committee in the local, and then I moved up to the International, so I was all finished with those fellows down there.

[01:21:12] **FAY:** What year?

[01:21:14] **HENRY:** Oh, I don't know.

[01:21:15] **HOWARD:** That had to be after 1950 I think. Because I know you were still actively running for office in Local 10 in 1949, 1950, 1951.

[01:21:24] **FAY:** Is that the Korean time? The Korean War?

[01:21:26] **HOWARD:** Yeah.

[01:21:30] **HENRY:** Did you find an item that found that I had been defeated in the presidency?

[01:21:34] **HOWARD:** Let's see. Sometimes you were, yes.

[01:21:38] **FAY:** In the Korean War, I heard you say, "That Korean War and the right-wingers on the Waterfront didn't elect you." And that they were very strong.

[01:21:50] **HOWARD:** In fact I got slates here, the Progressive Slate and the so-called Blue Slate. Blue Slate goes on for a bunch of pages.

[01:21:58] **FAY:** You got the names of people on those slates?

[01:21:59] **HOWARD:** I sure do, here take a look.

[01:22:01] **FAY:** I might remember.

[01:22:02] **HOWARD:** See, what I wanted to do with these lists, actually, was to determine who the guys were who were activists in each of the slates. And trying to figure out if the '34 men were more likely to be the Progressives or the Blue Slates. If the Blacks who came in during the war were more likely to be the Progressives or the Blue Slates. Do you remember any of those sorts of things? Probably not, huh? It's been a while, it's 30 years ago.

Do you remember the issue of screening that was brought up in 1950?

[01:22:34] **HENRY:** Yeah.

[01:22:35] **HOWARD:** You should.

[01:22:35] **HENRY:** Damn right.

[01:22:37] **HOWARD:** You were screened, I know that, right?

[01:22:43] **HENRY:** Yeah, I was screened good. Henry Schrimpf helped me go get screened.

[01:22:45] **HOWARD:** Schrimpf did that? Yeah, Schrimpf.

[01:22:45] **FAY:** Well, most everybody that was pro-International was screened.

[01:22:48] **HOWARD:** Yeah.

[01:22:51] **HENRY:** That was—Let me remember this. I was working in the hold, on the ship on the East Bay side, you know. And it just so happened that the gang boss, or maybe it was the walking boss, his name was also Schmidt. And he hollered down and said, "Henry, come on up, they want you." I said, "Who wants me?" And he says, "Them guys." And I didn't find out who "them guys" was, until I got up there and there were a couple of FBI men, and their subject matter was screening. They found out of course that I was a citizen and they couldn't deport me. And one of the first things they did was one of the FBI guys said, "What you got in your hand?" And I said, "That's my cargo hook." "Well," he said, "give it to me." Yesterday, I was rummaging around my garage and I found it there. [laughs]

[01:23:50] **HOWARD:** Is that right?

[01:23:50] **HENRY:** My cargo hook!

And he says, "When we get off the territory," we were in Navy territory, across the Bay. And he said, "You're going to get off here." So there was office in there, and he took the hook in there, and later on he gave it back to

me. And I said, "How am I going to get back to San Francisco? I didn't come here in my automobile." Well, he says, "You go out there and get a bus to San Francisco." And then so I went in that direction and I stepped out of the Army—or the Navy territory, and I was in neutral territory. You know what happened then? There was a man there and he wore working clothes, and he saw me coming out in working clothes and he said to me, "You know of anywhere I can get some employment?" I said to myself, 'What next?' I said, "Well, I just got fired and you can go in there and try." He didn't know anything about unions, I guess.

[01:25:10] **HOWARD:** So you were still able to work commercial cargo, right? Commercial box?

[01:25:13] **HENRY:** Oh, yes, yeah. The gang boss said, "Alright, after this we won't—" On Sundays, I went on the Army base and Naval base and they would just say, "No."

[01:25:26] **HOWARD:** What do you mean? They just wouldn't work it?

[01:25:28] **HENRY:** Well the dispatcher said, "Go to the Navy or Army," and we said, "Well, we won't go there or we'll get in trouble. Don't send us there. Send us to a civilian dock."

[01:25:35] **HOWARD:** So they did that just for you then?

[01:25:38] **HENRY:** No, no, because there were other people were. . .

[01:25:41] **HOWARD:** In your gang?

[01:25:42] **HENRY:** No, not in my gang. Henry Schrimpf, he even made a—I don't know. He made a comment and he got it in the papers that was the right and proper for the screening FBI man to take me off the charge.

[01:26:06] **HOWARD:** Yeah and he testified against Bridges and everything else. In 1950.

[01:26:07] **HENRY:** Oh yeah, that's right.

[01:26:09] **HOWARD:** I know that. Here's a list of progressives you might be interested in.

[01:26:14] **FAY:** Yeah, these—

[01:26:15] **HOWARD:** Henry shows up here, can you read these? There's the progressives and there's the Blue Slate.

[01:26:19] **FAY:** This is the Blue Slate.

[01:26:21] **HOWARD:** I think the issues were basically sort of anti-communism and screening. And to some extent, racial questions too.

[01:26:29] **FAY:** Loyalty to the U.S. Government.

[01:26:31] **HOWARD:** Or what they call loyalty, which meant you know, Korean—

[01:26:37] **FAY:** Also, at one time I remember, I think the Catholic Church seemed to be strong in influencing [people] . [inaudible] _____ was a very strong, Catholic town. And that Church was influencing a lot of the people on the waterfront because they were Catholic.

[01:26:57] **HOWARD:** ACTU, Association of Catholic Trade Unionists? Jim Kearney.

[01:27:01] **FAY:** That's right, and around that certain of period, I guess, '45 maybe, I don't know, in that area of period of time, I think it was a very strong time. [There was] a real battle going on in the union.

[01:27:15] **HOWARD:** I know. What's funny is that every other year the Blue Slate is in and out, and the Progressive Slate's in. And it doesn't seem to make any sense. Someone suggested that the membership was consciously trying to put a liberal in one year, and a conservative the next and going back and forth to cover their—

[01:27:33] **FAY:** It was always rather hard to understand. Always rather hard to understand. It was always, as I remember—it was—they were a lively bunch, it was what you called a real democratic union.

[01:27:51] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I know that.

[01:27:51] **FAY:** Everybody could speak his mind and they took sides. And it was a battle. Always a battle.

[01:28:00] **HOWARD:** Do you know how the sides broke down in anyway? I think the Catholics tended to support the Blue Slate, and what my recollecti—or what I've been told is the Blacks support the Progressives.

[01:28:09] **FAY:** That's right.

[01:28:10] **HENRY:** George [?Armes?] .

[01:28:12] **HOWARD:** How about the '34 men? Do you have any idea how they broke down? Were the '34 men for the Blue Slate or you guys? Or do you remember?

[01:28:23] **HENRY:** Do you mean born in '34?

[01:28:24] **HOWARD:** Guys that went through the '34 strike, I guess is what I mean.

[01:28:28] **HENRY:** Oh, I think that we did fairly well.

[01:28:31] **FAY:** Well, in the early days, I think you must've have—I don't think there was—I think the division developed around the period of the wartime, maybe. In the early days, I mean just remembering, it seemed to me that you guys had no opposition.

[01:28:50] **HOWARD:** No they didn't, but in 1950, what I'm trying to figure out is, how did the '34 men vote?

[01:28:56] **FAY:** Well, they were a loyal bunch, I'm sure.

[01:28:59] **HENRY:** There was name of George [?Armes?] .

[01:29:01] **HOWARD:** Yeah, you remember him, right?

[01:29:02] **HENRY:** Oh boy, he was secretary, secretary of Local 10 while I was president. I hired a young woman one time to act as my secretary, and he went out in the sidewalk to the guys and said, "President Schmidt had just hired a woman and she's a communist!" Just like that, you know? [laughs]

[01:29:26] **FAY:** If I may so, I remember in 1934, I was very young—

[END PART THREE/BEGIN PART FOUR]

You know, people were kind of proud of the fact that you know the San Francisco being the union town. They were proud of the union background, but in the beginning, oh boy I can remember it was kind of scary, I didn't go around telling people I belonged to that union.

[01:30:08] **HENRY:** Especially if you worked down in the office.

[01:30:12] **FAY:** Well, I did in the later years, but I'm talking about way back then.

[01:30:18] **HOWARD:** Were you the one that was hired as a secretary?

[01:30:21] **FAY:** No, I didn't get into the office set up by the union until about 1956. But then I was a wife of a warehouse man at that time. But then I became Henry's—

[01:30:43] **HENRY:** Excuse me Fay, can you put your hands on the photographic job of Ansel—Ansel, what's his name? Big photographer.

[01:30:51] **FAY:** Ansel Adams? Yes, but that has nothing to do with the union?

[01:30:55] **HENRY:** Yes it does, because my niece is on it.

[01:31:11] **FAY:** Oh.

[PAUSE IN THE RECORDING OF THE INTERVIEW]

[01:31:11] **HENRY:** He was a war vet. And that helped him become president, and I think that he beat me when I was a candidate.

[01:31:20] **HOWARD:** [?Phil Sandine?] .

[01:31:21] **HENRY:** Yup, how in the hell did you know that?

[01:31:24] **HOWARD:** I'll tell you, I know more about this union than. . .

[01:31:28] **FAY:** He's on the Blue Slate.

[01:31:29] **HOWARD:** Yeah, he's on the Blue Slate.

[01:31:31] **HENRY:** He got word one time that he should come to Washington [D.C.] and see the President [of the United States] . And when he got home, my remembrance of him—he was not a man that could make a speech properly. Even though he was president and went down to Washington to see the President. So when he made it I had to make a report—somebody got up and he got a fairly good hand, he said, "How much money did you spend? Did they pay your fare?" And he said, "No, they didn't pay my fare." And so the rank-and-file said, "Now, the rank-and-file got to give you many to travel to Washington D.C. Ain't that improper?" You know. Well, he had the right answer, he said, "When the President of the United States tells you to come, you go." [laughs]

[01:32:22] **HOWARD:** I remember an incident I wanted to ask you about, it occurred in about 1950 or 1951, and there was discussion about the need to cut back the work force, just before the Korean War. And there was a big meeting that was held, I think that was in the Civic Auditorium—

[01:32:37] **HENRY:** That's right, I was there.

[01:32:38] **HOWARD:** Bridges got up and spoke and said, something like—well, you tell me what happened.

[01:32:43] **HENRY:** Well, I don't remember who spoke. I don't think I did.

[01:32:46] **HOWARD:** Yeah, you did.

Odell Franklin, do you know him?

[01:32:51] **HENRY:** He's a Black man, isn't he?

[01:32:54] **HOWARD:** Yeah. He remembers very vividly what you said.

[01:32:57] **HENRY:** It came to ahead, and it was put into effect, but if a layoff were to be made, the membership would have an opportunity to vote on it—I think that's what was said? And in the Joint Labor Relations Committee would bring in the number of people who should be laid off and the vote was taken. The man who was last hired would be the first to go, and that's the way it was.

[01:33:27] **HOWARD:** Actually, I think it was different from that.

[01:33:29] **HENRY:** You think so?

[01:33:30] **HOWARD:** Yeah, that's what was so remarkable. Bridges was arguing that the last hired should be fired, and what that would mean is that mostly Black lives would get fired, because they were the most recent people hired during the war. And you came up and said, "Let's cut the lazy men from the top—" You remember this? "Cut the guys in the middle, and cut a few guys in the very bottom." And that would mean that everybody would have to take a little bit of a cut.

[01:33:57] **HENRY:** I guess that was my [?preachment?]

[01:33:59] **HOWARD:** That's right, solidarity.

[01:34:01] **HENRY:** Solidarity forever.

[01:34:02] **HOWARD:** That's right. And the workers went for it and there were no cuts made ever.

[01:34:06] **FAY:** That would make a difference all right.

[01:34:08] **HOWARD:** Yeah, because everyone was saying, "Hey, that could be me that's getting cut," instead of those last hired.

[01:34:13] **FAY:** Yeah, as long as you were cutting a lot of guys.

[01:34:15] **HOWARD:** That's right.

[01:34:16] **FAY:** I think I remember that?

[01:34:20] **HOWARD:** You remember that?

[01:34:20] **FAY:** I remember there was something—

[01:34:20] **HOWARD:** Oh boy, Odell remembers it. He almost started crying when he was telling me about it.

[01:34:24] **FAY:** Who's this?

[01:34:25] **HOWARD:** Odell Franklin?

[01:34:26] **FAY:** Oh really?

[01:34:27] **HOWARD:** Yeah.

[01:34:27] **HENRY:** He stayed, huh?

[01:34:29] **HOWARD:** What's that?

[01:34:29] **HENRY:** Did he stay or did he have to go?

[01:34:31] **FAY:** Odell Franklin, he used to be a—

[01:34:32] **HOWARD:** He's still around. Yeah, I just interviewed him a little while ago.

[01:34:36] **FAY:** Oh yeah, he was a—

[01:34:38] **HENRY:** Pensioner?

[01:34:38] **HOWARD:** He must be, huh?

[01:34:41] **FAY:** I think he must be now, but he was an officer in Local 10. Odell Franklin.

[01:34:44] **HOWARD:** Yeah.

[01:34:45] **FAY:** Black man.

[01:34:47] **HENRY:** What did he do as officer?

[01:34:51] **FAY:** I think he was secretary.

[01:34:53] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I think that's—or maybe a business agent?

[01:34:55] **FAY:** I think he was secretary. But I think it was a tough job for him.

[01:35:00] **HOWARD:** Yeah, that's what I understand. But he remembered Henry standing up and saying that, I'll tell you.

I got a final set of questions.

[01:35:09] **HENRY:** What did Henry say?

[01:35:11] **HOWARD:** You?

[01:35:11] **HENRY:** Yeah.

[01:35:11] **FAY:** He just explained it.

[01:35:12] **HOWARD:** About cutting the guys at the top? Cut the guys in the middle?

[01:35:15] **HENRY:** Oh, I see.

[01:35:16] **HOWARD:** I know the line was something like, the right-wing and Bridges was saying the same thing at the time, which was, "We can work together, but we can't starve together." And Henry said, "I've been talking to the employers and yes, we do have to make some cuts, so I propose we cut from the top, cut from the middle, and we cut from the bottom." And then everybody got real nervous and all of sudden it wasn't so important to make the cuts anymore. They figured that they could work a little less, and share what work there was.

[01:35:44] **FAY:** Yeah, he made a difference. [chuckle] Well, I guess you did alright, honey. [laugh]

[01:35:48] **HOWARD:** Yeah, you sure did.

Let me ask you a set of larger questions, both of you can answer these in fact.

[01:35:56] **HENRY:** Is this going on the record?

[01:35:57] **HOWARD:** Yeah, unless you don't want it to.

[01:36:00] **HENRY:** Well, let's hear it.

[01:36:02] **HOWARD:** Do you think the ILWU is unique in any respect within the labor movement in terms of its politics? Do you think it's a radical union? Or was—I mean I'm really thinking now between 1930 and 1950.

[01:36:15] **HENRY:** I'd use one word, we are different. We are different.

[01:36:18] **HOWARD:** How so?

[01:36:19] **HENRY:** Well, we did the dispatcher, take into account the voting, which was certainly different from the Teamsters. And we're different from the ILA, back East.

[01:36:32] **HOWARD:** Absolutely.

[01:36:33] **HENRY:** I was back East on the Waterfront one time, and Joe Ryan he—after I got back on the west again—he's reported to have sent a message to one of our guys here, "What's Henry Schmidt doing walking around on my waterfront?"

[01:36:51] **HOWARD:** "My" waterfront.

[01:36:52] **HENRY:** I was wearing a business suit, you know, I was on the Pier, talking to men who were waiting to get in. And—

[01:37:01] **HOWARD:** Oh I read those reports. You filed those reports. I think you might have gone there with Cole Jackman?

[01:37:05] **HENRY:** That's right.

[01:37:06] **HOWARD:** I read those, yeah.

[01:37:07] **HENRY:** Well, I think that we—who wrote those reports?

[01:37:10] **HOWARD:** The two of you? You signed them anyway. Talked about hiring practices on the docks and things like that.

[01:37:17] **HENRY:** So Fay and I made a trip one day—not one day, we were going to Europe to visit and that was your first experience on a big liner. It was the SS Nieuw Amsterdam. And we gave our luggage to some longshoreman, and they took it as far as the entrance through the side door of the ship, you know. I even forgot the name of that entrance to that ship, you go up the short gangplank and hid their luggage—

[01:37:51] **FAY:** Gangway? Not the gangway?

[01:37:53] **HENRY:** No, they had a—had it on a four-wheel truck, and the four-wheeler gave it to the stewards who work on the ship, they said, “Now,” they said to us, friendly, but, “We have taken care of your luggage thus far, will you take care of us?” That means you know, tip me, in general. I said, “You belong to the ILA?” And they said, “Sure, sure.” And I said, “Okay, I’m a San Francisco longshoreman. When you get over to the Old Country, you go and tell people you’re harbor working in San Francisco.” And they said, “You can’t be, you can’t be, you can’t be. Just like that you’re a harbor worker.”

[01:38:39] **FAY:** The ILWU has always aligned itself with the small, progressive unions wherever they were. Iron workers—there was the iron workers, the mill workers—whatever you are, I guess. All of those very, very, very progressive unions, and they’ve always had—I don’t know about other unions, but this one has always had a strong legislative committees. And they’ve always—and they’ve made—and delegates went back to peace movements, back in 19—in the ‘50s. You know, and that was not a very [pause] good thing to do. But the ILWU had delegates back to the Washington D.C., and peace marches and things like that. Sort of puts it kind of, way out there, you know?

[01:39:36] **HOWARD:** How do you explain that? The—now the other thing that’s interesting, let me just say this, of all the nine unions that were expelled from the CIO [Congress of Industrial Organizations] in the 1950s, being communist-led, you know? The ILWU is the only one that survived without any major losses of membership. The UE [United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America] lost half of its members, the electrical workers, mine mills, smelters workers lost a substantial chunk. A lot of the other unions eventually collapsed, what is it about the ILWU?

[01:40:03] **FAY:** Maybe it’s the location?

[01:40:05] **HOWARD:** In what way?

[01:40:09] **FAY:** Well, they’ve always said that San Francisco was a good labor town, maybe it’s the. . . [pause] Maybe it’s because we took in the Blacks. Oh wait, hold on, you’re talking about the ILWU, you’re not just talking about San Francisco, you’re talking about the whole coast, aren’t you?

[01:40:28] **HOWARD:** Really longshore is really what I’m looking at, it’s really coast-wide.

[01:40:32] **HENRY:** Here I’m going to interrupt you, did you read the book, my book?

[01:40:36] **HOWARD:** Your oral history?

[01:40:37] **HENRY:** Yeah.

[01:40:38] **HOWARD:** Portions of it, yeah.

[01:40:39] **HENRY:** Did you see my daughter, marching with the sign?

[01:40:42] **HOWARD:** I don't think so. Did they have pictures in it?

[01:40:45] **HENRY:** It's in, it's in—but I'll show you.

[01:40:48] **FAY:** I don't think the picture is in the book.

[01:40:50] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I'd like to see that.

[01:40:53] **FAY:** Well, that's a good question and it's something I never really thought about.

[01:40:56] **HOWARD:** You haven't? That's weird. [laugh]

[01:40:59] **FAY:** But I think you have to consider they had a strong rank-and-file and it just might be very well that the communist party played a very strong part. Truly. In the organization. There was a lot of rank-and-file solid guys there.

[01:41:21] **HOWARD:** I know.

[01:41:22] **FAY:** And it wasn't just leadership, there was a whole rank-and-file that really worked together. I guess that might have been something to do with it.

[01:41:34] **HOWARD:** [Henry shows Howard the picture.] [laughs] Great. When is this? What year is this? Oh is this the year here? No.

[01:41:40] **FAY:** 'Thirty-seven, I think.

[01:41:41] **HOWARD:** Is that right? "Daddy wants a shorter day, so he'll have time to play."

[01:41:45] **HENRY:** Have you seen this picture?

[01:41:47] **HOWARD:** That one I've seen, yeah.

[01:41:48] **HENRY:** Where? In here?

[01:41:50] **HOWARD:** I've seen it printed somewhere else. In fact, I was going to use it as a cover of a book that I did. I did a book already on labor—

[01:41:57] **HENRY:** Do you know who lined those guys up to spell "I-L-A?"

[01:42:01] **HOWARD:** No—

[01:42:01] **HENRY:** Me.

[01:42:02] **HOWARD:** Oh, I didn't see that! I didn't notice it was ILA.

[01:42:04] **HENRY:** Yeah, we were spelling ILA. But we hesitated for a minute, and I was leading this parade, and I tried to get them to shape those—"Shape yourself up in the ILA." And some of them said, "Oh, just because we elected you president, now you're giving us orders!" And I said, "Well, orders or requests." So they finally did it.

[01:42:26] **HOWARD:** That looks great.

[01:42:26] **HENRY:** And I didn't take the—there was a photographer in Oakland, he was on the top of the roof and I shopped around to find him, somebody gave me his name and he gave me the print.

[01:42:36] **HOWARD:** That's great. That's nice.

[01:42:39] **HENRY:** I think she is in the book, a little bit smaller. But it's the same print.

[01:42:43] **FAY:** I don't remember that she is.

[01:42:44] **HOWARD:** I don't think there's any pictures in the oral history volume, but—

[01:42:47] **FAY:** No, I don't think—there's only a few pictures in the book, and—

[01:42:52] **HOWARD:** Are there? I didn't even know there were any pictures in that book. Oh, there's a picture of him in the front, I know that, that's right.

[01:42:57] **FAY:** There's a picture of his mother and there's a picture of his father, and there's a picture of us—me and him and his daughter. I don't know, I think there was just one page of some pictures, and then the rest of book. They didn't put a lot of pictures in, but I guess we didn't have many to give.

[01:43:20] **HOWARD:** You were saying something that I—yeah.

[01:43:23] **FAY:** I think you'd have to talk to a lot of people here to get an idea on that because I wasn't close enough to the ILWU in the very early days, but I know that there was a very strong group of people in there. And that coupled with the leadership must've been it.

[01:43:48] **HENRY:** What's your first name again?

[01:43:49] **HOWARD:** Howard.

[01:43:52] **HENRY:** I'll show you—

[END PART FOUR]